

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
VOLUNTARY STATEMENT
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EVENT #: 171001-3519

SPECIFIC CRIME: MURDER

DATE OCCURRED: 10-01-17

TIME OCCURRED:

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE:

CITY OF LAS VEGAS

CLARK COUNTY

NAME OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT: OFFICER JACOB HENRY P# 14753

DOB:

SOCIAL SECURITY #:

RACE:

SEX:

HEIGHT:

WEIGHT:

HAIR:

EYES:

HOME ADDRESS:

PHONE 1:

WORK ADDRESS:

PHONE 2:

The following is the transcription of a tape-recorded interview conducted by DETECTIVE J. GRIMMETT, P# 7056, LVMPD HOMICIDE SECTION, on October 23, 2017 at 1517 hours.

Also present PPA Representative M. Hamm, P# 6675, LVMPD Police Protective Association.

Q: Okay, operator, this is Detective Grimmer, P# 7056, conducting a, uh, officer interview with Officer Jacob Henry, H-E-N-R-Y, P# 14753, with, uh - as part of an investigation under LVMPD Event# 171001-3519. This interview is being conducted at headquarters, Building A, second floor in the homicide office.

Today's date is October 23, 2017. The time is 1517 hours. Also present at this time is PPA Rep. Myron Hamm, H-A-M-M, P# ...

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Q1: 6675.

Q: All right. Do you understand the conversation is being recorded j- Jacob?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: All right. Can we call you Jacob or you want to be called something else, man?

A: No, Jacob's fine. Jake also.

Q: Oh, okay. All right Jake.

A: Jake.

Q: All right. Jake are you making this statement freely and voluntarily without any promises, without any threats or duress to provide information in an administrative and criminal investigation being conducted by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department?

A: I am.

Q: Okay. Are you aware that anything you say may be used as part of an administrative investigation as well, not just the criminal side of things?

A: I am.

Q: Okay. All right. Uh, please state your assignment, uh, during the event, when, uh, as far as like overtime, on duty, off duty, you know, where you were positioned. And I also brought a map in for you, too. I know I didn't give you an opportunity to view it before we started the interview, but this is just a map that was provided by the special event or overtime officers assigned to the event. So please refer to it as needed, uh, throughout the deal so...

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A: Yeah.

Q: Start me from the beginning, man. W - w...

A: I was...

Q: Were you on duty, off duty, what were you doing?

A: I was, uh, overtime, uh, 162 Sam Easy. Um, I was assigned traffic control for Route 91 event. And it doesn't say it on here, but it's actually gonna be right here at this corner. It was Las Vegas Boulevard and Mandalay Bay Road which I believe on your map is right here Reno over here.

Q: Okay.

A: Uh, my assignment started at 1700 hours and I was scheduled to work to 01.

Q: All right. Um, I'm as- uh, you guys dressed in the officer uniform of the day or...

A: Yeah, patrol uniform with traffic control vest and standard traffic control type assignment.

Q: All right.

A: Um, the IAP did call for rifle certified individuals. I was one of those individuals so I did have my rifle with me in my patrol vehicle. Uh, obviously not SWAT or anything like that.

Q: Okay. And just kind of walk me through what happened that night.

A: Uh, it was pretty standard traffic control type stuff. Um, approximately 10:00 o'clock-ish, uh, or I'm sorry, 2200 hours, um, I was standing on that corner, uh, that I just referred to, Las Vegas Boulevard and Mandalay Bay Road. I heard,

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um, something that to me sounded like maybe fireworks. Um, I remember there were a bunch of pedestrians right there as well waiting for the - the light to change. They asked me what it was. Just to try to keep everything, you know, calm 'cause I honestly didn't know what it was, I just told them that I think it was probably fireworks, the show was scheduled to end within the hour, so maybe it was like, you know, the finale getting ready or something like that. Um, it happened again. Um, at that time I heard the 415A calls start coming out on the radio, um, that people were getting shot by the stage, uh, there were multiple victims. Instinctively - um, I was actually facing east at that time so towards the airport and towards the actual event. Um, I knew the noise was kind of coming from behind me, so I instinctively turned around. When I did, I actually saw a flashing light on the side of the building. Um, I got on the radio and said, "It's coming from Mandalay Bay. It's coming from Mandalay Bay." Later we realized that was actually a strobe light. It was not actually the shooter. Um, fortunately for us it actually did kind of get everybody's attention pointed that way and that's where it was coming from. So it kind of worked out for - for our benefit.

Q: Uh, right.

A: Um, I heard the radio start blowing up at that time, multiple people saying active shooter, Mandalay Bay, um, multiple victims down, multiple 419s. I, uh, headed toward my patrol vehicle, which was parked right here on the sidewalk, um, so I guess it would be like the southeast side of Las Vegas Boulevard and Mandalay

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Bay Road. Donned my - my, um, rifle plates, grabbed my rifle. Um, I - I am optics and magnifier certified, so I start making my way back to this intersection to try to get across the street and start making my way to Mandalay Bay Road. As I get back to the intersection, there are people everywhere. I mean it's just mass, chaos. Um, so - and I don't know why, I just decide at that point I need to start helping these people get out of the line of fire as opposed to Mandalay Bay, Mandalay Bay. So I start telling them, you know, there's like volleys going, so I'm like, "Find cover during the volley." As soon as there was a lull - I had served in military so I kind of knew when he was reloading or grabbing another rifle or something like that, so, um, during the lulls, and you can even hear it in my body camera, we start moving, so kind of jumping from cover to cover to cover. So I try to clear this intersection, get people going either east down Mandalay Bay Road or south down Las Vegas Boulevard. Um, once the intersection's kind of - once people are flowing in a good direction, I start taking cover and I start making my way back toward Mandalay Bay. Um, about that time the shooting had ceased. Um, I didn't know that he was obviously deceased at that time. I just know he wasn't shooting as much anymore. Uh, radio traffic comes out that there people stuck at Four Seasons and this there are injured and, um, medical can't get to them because they're in the hot zone. So I, uh, get in a patrol car that is parked right there and I actually drive, uh, over to Mandalay - or I'm sorry - over to Four Seasons, which is at the base of Mandalay Bay. When I arrive,

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there are about 50 to 100 people there. Um, nobody said they were casualties or that they were hurt or anything like that, so I just got them, uh, going south on Las Vegas Boulevard towards Russell. And once they were all clear of Mandalay Bay and everybody within that general vicinity was out of the area, um, a strike team from Northeast was actually making their way from South Central down the boulevard. I recognized it as a squad I had worked with before. I recognized the Sarge and a bunch of the - the guys on the squad. Since I was kind of by myself at that point, I just jumped in with their strike team and said, "I'm part of you guys now," and just made our way down the boulevard. The calls were coming out that there were multiple 415As, um, at like Tropicana, and New York New York and here and here, so we're literally just running down the boulevard making our way down there. We eventually make it to New York New York. We get assigned to that New York New York. Uh, we clear the whole casino area of the, uh, building and then we pretty much maintain at that point. We're not - we're not leaving. We own New York New York and, um, from there just wait for our next assignment.

Q: All right. Uh, just kind of starting at the beginning of this deal.

A: Yep.

Q: Um, prior to you guys, uh, getting dispatched or sent out or assigned to your specific areas within the venue, like you explained earlier, you were assigned to the exterior perimeter traffic control at the - at the event, did you guys have a

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briefing with your sergeant or somebody in charge of the event?

A: There was a briefing, um, because there were people that started at 1:00 o'clock and there were people that started at 5:00 o'clock and I think there were even people that started at different times. I did not actually attend the briefing. Um, I went straight to my post. The sergeant that I was working for was at that post already so he just briefed me on what I needed to know.

Q: Okay.

A: And I just picked up my assignment. Since there were guys that were already there from - since 1:00 o'clock, he asked me, he's was like, "Hey, can you go ahead and break them now? They've been out here for four hours already." So I just immediately picked up my post and they went to chow and, um, I went - so I did not attend a briefing that...

Q: Not - not a formal briefing, but you met with your sergeant and...

A: I did meet with my sergeant and he did tell me what the gist of the - the plan was, what we were supposed to be doing that night, what my role...

Q: All right.

A: ...within that night was and he immediately assigned me to - to chow break for those guys.

Q: Did you feel adequately briefed or prepared to work traffic control at the corner of the intersection of Mandalay Bay Road and Las Vegas Boulevard?

A: I did.

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Q: Okay.

A: Yeah.

Q: All right. Uh, as far as radio traffic and all that stuff, uh, uh, I mean was - r- radio was operable? I mean were things working properly like you anticipated they were working or did you have any equipment issues or failures or anything we should know about?

A: No. The equipment worked, um, fine. The equipment worked as - as designed. Obviously procedural and, you know, once people started getting on it, that's a whole different ballgame, but the equipment didn't fail us. I mean it - it seemed to work.

Q: You feel you were adequately prepared and trained to handle a situation like this? I mean I know it's kind of unique and, you know, I don't - I know it's - it was something that hopefully we'll never ever face again and something we've never dealt with before, but based on public training that you did have and - and you've had throughout - not only I guess you got some military background you mentioned earlier, but the training you received here at Metro, uh, was it adequate? Did it - it prepare you for something like this?

A: Uh, I believe so, yeah. Um, I actually reviewed my body camera a couple days ago. It's finally been released and all this stuff and, um, some of the guys who were standing around, they actually commented like, "Dude, you sound like super calm on the radio. Like you sound like you're not even - like are you sure

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you're at the event?" And I don't know, I mean this isn't the first time I've been shot at, you know, um, it was a little nerve wracking not knowing exactly where it was coming from obviously, but I mean you just kind of - your training takes over. You do what you got to do and you move forward.

Q: Okay. All right. Uh, is there any training the department might need to institute to better prepare officers to handle a situation like this?

A: I personally, uh, think, um, I know there's been all kinds of rumors going around about over watch at some of these types of events, you know, especially outdoor, uh, covert type, you know, over watch and stuff like that. Um, I don't know what the plan is as far as getting the, um, like the, um, like sniper adjunct type. I don't know exactly what it's called, but I know there are a handful of guys who have like the - the special marksmen, you know, program, um, maybe getting more of those guys out there. Like I said, I mean I got a rifle, I got a magnifier, I got a red dot, all that kind - basically all the equipment that I can buy at my level and it served me no good that night. You know what I mean, it was completely useless.

Q: Right.

A: There were multiple times where I did scan the side of the building and it just - it was no avail. I mean I couldn't see anything. As soon as I popped up and looked in my magnifier, the reflection back from the building just blind - I mean I couldn't see anything so...

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Q: Yeah, so far away and, yeah, no doubt. Uh...

A: So that would be my only thing is maybe getting more of those, you know, special marksmen, you know, guys out there, um, maybe getting patrol, you know, uh, a little bit better equipment, you know, I mean...

Q: Such as...

A: ...I don't think everybody should have like a .308 with a full up, you know, um, scope and all that kind of stuff, but I mean if you had the training and you show the proficiency and you get, you know, the blessing from the range guys to - to be able to accurately and proficiently operate that - that equipment and, you know, why - why shouldn't we be able to - to have that and use it.

Q: No worries, no worries. Uh, and I think you - you already kind of touched up on it, uh, that - you know the - the first question I asked was about training as far as we - anything we could institute to better prepare you. And then the second part of that I think you already touched up on was, was there any equipment the department might need to consider, uh, to have better assisted you? You know, anything else that you feel - I mean you talked about the .308 and having maybe some rifles out there. Is there anything else equipment wise you think, uh...

A: No.

Q: ...would have been helpful to you to handle a situation like this? I mean first aid equipment or anything? I mean I don't, you know...

A: I - I work with the guys who, um, actually made it to the 32nd floor, like the first

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few guys and I mean we - we've mentioned, you know, like the shields. I know like the type of vehicles are out now with the shields and all that kind of stuff and he was like, "Dude, I was on rifle on - in the front of that stack." He was like, "A shield wouldn't have really done anything." I mean like, I mean if he would have came out that door, we were prepared, we were ready, but as soon as the shooting stopped, essentially it was like, well, we have a barricade now. He's no longer actively shooting, so, you know what I mean. They're not gonna give us explosive devices to blow a door, so I think the equipment we had, you know. I mean more tourniquets. I mean who expects something like that to happen, man. I mean every patrol car has a tourniquet in it. You know most patrol officers have a tourniquet on them. You know, so I mean you can fill the whole back of my car up with tourniquets, but...

Q: You can only do what you can do, right?

A: I mean, yeah, you know, it's like I mean. I think we're - I think our department, man, is doing a good job. I think the training was sufficient. I mean everybody's first instinct, I think, was to run to that - to the Mandalay Bay. I checked myself, you know, when I saw all the people standing around, maybe it was a good decision, maybe it was a bad, I don't know, but I mean I think we're well-trained. I think we're well-equipped. I think, you know, our department does a good job about that. I'm not just saying that. I believe it. Are things gonna change based on this event? I think so, you know, but I mean.

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Q: Fair enough, man.

A: I think a lot more people could have died that night and they didn't, you know.

Q: No doubt.

A: Because of - of what we do and, you know, how we reacted so...

Q: Is there anything that, uh, I failed to ask you that you can think of or that you think might be important for us to know?

A: Uh, no. Do you know the timeline? Was it six minutes before or was it...

Q: Yeah, the - the...

A: ...forty seconds before?

Q: Yeah, I mean...

A: It seems like it's still up in the air a little bit, but...

Q: Yeah, I mean the timeline's been pretty much - it's - it's been pretty much ironed out.

A: Yeah.

Q: Uh, I could explain that to you later whatever...

A: Okay.

Q: It's - it's - it's - it's pretty much been ironed out. I mean we kind of know what's what and, uh, you know, his movements and stuff like that and kind of how he did what he did.

A: Fair enough.

Q: You know, from - from what we can tell as far as the criminal side of the house,

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but, uh, yeah, it's - it's - it's - it's pretty much ironed out.

A: Just having been there I think, um, for me personally I don't need to talk about any more, like get anything off my chest, but maybe just knowing is there something that we could have done to stop it versus, you know what, that was just 100 percent evil, you know, at its purest form and...

Q: That's it, man.

A: ...we did the best we could.

Q1: Yeah.

Q: That's it. That's it, man. I mean I think you guys did a phenomenal job from - from what I can see. Uh, I can't imagine what you guys are going through. Uh, I know we talked about it before we got on tape. We talked about, you know, having bullets raining down on you not knowing where it's coming from, so, uh, that in itself is a whole different challenge. You know, here we're used to knowing who our threat is and who we're dealing with and you go and address it appropriately, you know. So, uh, being faced with a situation like this is, uh, it's unprecedented for us, man, and it's, you know, uh, it's - it's - you guys did a good job as far as I could see, man. I - I don't know that there's anything else you could have done than what you did, so hats off to you guys for the ones being there and having to handle that and respond - respond to what you guys did. I think you did a phenomenal job so. Hamm, you got anything?

Q1: No, nothing.

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Q: All right. All right. That will be it. That will be the end of this interview. The same persons are present and the time is 1531 hours.

THIS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT WAS COMPLETED AT 400 MARTIN LUTHER KING BLVD LAS VEGAS, NV ON THE 23RD DAY OF OCTOBER, 2017 AT 1531 HOURS.

JGR:NETTRANSCRIPTS

JGR072

Proofed j7056g